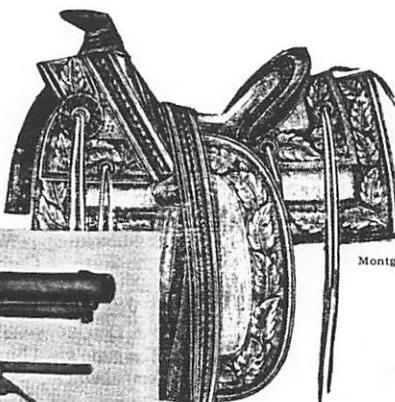


Famous Names of the West included John Stetson, maker of wide-brimmed hats, and Sam Colt, whose pistol was "the gun that won the West."



Montgomery Ward



Colt's Patent Repeating Pistols.

Manufactured at HARTFORD, CONN.

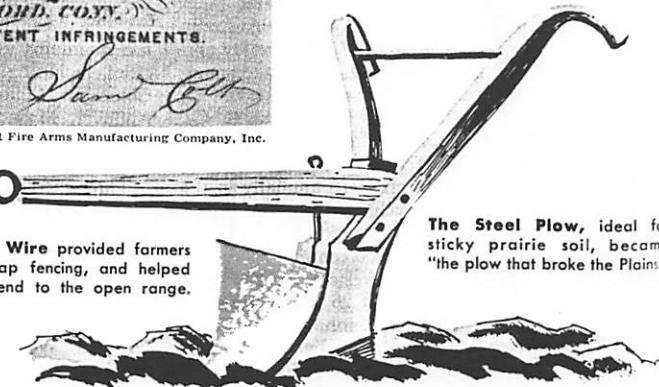
BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS & PATENT INFRINGEMENTS.

Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Sam Colt



Barbed Wire provided farmers with cheap fencing, and helped put an end to the open range.



The Steel Plow, ideal for sticky prairie soil, became "the plow that broke the Plains."

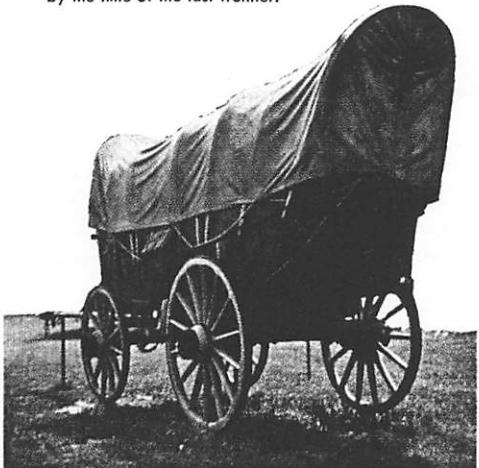
WESTERN FRONTIER LIFE marks one of the most exciting chapters in American history. The settlement of the West represented the dreams of gold-hungry prospectors, and of homesteaders whose back-breaking labor transformed barren plains into fields of grain. It is the story of cowboys and the open range. It is the drama of Indians and outlaws, of the trains and stagecoaches they attacked, and of the citizens who brought order to the frontier. It is a living tradition that symbolizes to men and women everywhere the American achievement of taming a wild and beautiful land.

The far western frontier appeared about 1850, and vanished about 1890. Adventurous settlers had crossed the Appalachian Mountains during the 1700's and pushed through the Cumberland Gap in the 1770's. They built homes along the Mississippi River a few

years later. Traders and scouts reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1800's. But the area west of the Mississippi—"the last frontier"—did not attract many settlers until after 1850. The final period of western settlement lasted from 1850 to 1890. For the complete story of western expansion in the United States, see **WESTWARD MOVEMENT**.

The western frontier produced many colorful figures. Some, such as Jesse James and Billy the Kid, symbolize outlaws who "died with their boots on." Others, such as Wyatt Earp and "Wild Bill" Hickok, gained fame as fearless defenders of law and order. "Buffalo Bill" Cody—scout, Indian fighter, and showman—probably did more than anyone else to create interest in the old West. Other men, though less well-known, did more to develop the area itself. Charles Goodnight, a fiery

Early Settlers in the Far West
crossed the plains to Oregon or California. Their high Conestoga wagons had already become museum pieces by the time of the last frontier.



Tom Hollyman, courtesy *Holiday*, © 1955 Curtis Publishing Co.

A Stagecoach Roars Across the Desert with Indian attackers in close pursuit. In *Downing the High Leader*, Frederic Remington caught the drama and excitement that symbolize "the Wild West" to people throughout the world.



Sunday Morning in the Mines by Charles Nahl. Permanent Collection E. B. Crocker Art Gallery, Sacramento, California



In the Gold Fields, some miners spent Sunday reading the Bible or washing their clothes. Others wrestled or took part in horse racing.

Railroads helped tame the West. The train at right ran out of Virginia City, Nev., on the Virginia & Truckee line.